

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 01210

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR 34TH HRC

REF: A. CAIRO 02700; B. USUN 0206

1. THE AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL ASKED TO SEE ME JAN 25 TO DISCUSS THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING. THE OBJECTIVE OF GOI IS TO DE-EMPHASIZE THE AGENDA ITEM RELATING TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE COMMISSION. THE US WAS ASKED TO SUPPORT THIS OBJECTIVE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE.

2. I ASKED THE AMBASSADOR IF ANY THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO WHAT MIGHT BE PROPOSED AS A MEANS OF REDUCING THE STING OF THE ANTICIPATED ARAB ATTACK. WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE PROBLEM OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN ADVOCATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EXPECTATION THAT ISRAEL WOULD PERMIT SUCH AN OFFICIAL TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. AMBASSADOR BARROMI SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT PREFERS REPRESENTATIVES
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OF THE UN OR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUCH MISSIONS RATHER THAN PRIVATE PERSONS DESIGNATED BY THE AGENCIES. HE CITED THE PROBLEM THAT GOI IS HAVING WITH THE UNESCO INVESTIGATING TEAM WHICH INCLUDED A SWISS REPRESENTATIVE WHOM THEY BELIEVE HAS ANTI-ISRAEL BIASES.

3. COMMENT: DURING THE PAST MONTH, THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN

DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH VAN BOVEN (JANUARY 9), ED MEZVINSKY SUGGESTED DELAYING THE DEBATE ON ISRAEL IN ORDER TO FOCUS ON MORE CRUCIAL ITEMS DURING THE FIRST WEEKS OF THE SESSION. VAN BOVEN WAS NONCOMMITTAL TO THIS PROPOSAL. SEVERAL WEO MEMBERS OF THE HRC HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT ISSUE OF ISRAEL COULD BE MINIMIZED DURING 34TH HRC SESSION BECAUSE OF CURRENT TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. THIS WOULD PERMIT TALKS TO PROCEED WITHOUT DISTURBING AGITATION FROM THIS QUARTER, AND FREE THE COMMISSION TO FOCUS ON OTHER ISSUES.

4. ALTHOUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE CURRENTLY STALLED, IT APPEARS THAT TALKS MIGHT BE RESUMED IN NEAR FUTURE. ON BASIS THAT THEY MAY BE RESUMED, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON OUR ACTIVELY TRYING TO LIMIT OR DELAY DISCUSSION ON ISRAELI ISSUE DURING HRC. RECOGNIZING THAT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IS PRIORITY ITEM FOR EGYPT (REF) AND THE FACT THAT IT HAS BECOME A FOCAL POINT IN THE JERUSALEM/CAIRO TALKS, WE STILL BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO TRY TO LIMIT DEBATE BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR QUIET DIPLOMACY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT ON THE ISSUE RATHER THAN CONDEMNATORY UN RESOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE. END COMMENT.

5. AMBASSADOR BARROMI ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE US PLANS
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TO SPEAK TO THE PROBLEM OF THE SOVIET DISSIDENTS OR MORE PARTICULARLY OF THE SOVIET JEWS. HE PLANS TO SPEAK TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOVIET JEWRY AND SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING THE QUESTION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 12-B. ARE WE PREPARING AN INDEPENDENT STATEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF SOVIET JEWRY OR ARE WE PREPARED TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE GOI STATEMENT? I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO EACH OF THE ABOVE QUERIES. VANDEN HEUVEL

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